

From The Editor...

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Field Day... If you missed it, you missed a lot of fun. Rather than a dull write-up I'm simply going to post a small collage of FD pictures here. Massive kudos go out to the FD team, Al. N7OMS, Bruce WE7P, Jay KD7DKY and the whole small army of people who snatched victory from the jaws of defeat!

Also happening in June was the K7K special event kicked off by Rich Patrick. During the event, Bill AD7QI and Al AC7BU put up a field day style station at the picnic site and worked some stations. In addition to that Myself and Harry N7DOE continued the special event for the remainder of the week-end. The license was good for 48 hours. During that time Harry and I racked up some 70 contacts spread across the bands, but mostly on 20, 40 and 80 meters.

It was a lot of fun and I'd like to do it again for the actual 95th this fall and again for the 100th in another five years!

The next big thing is the annual RCT hamfest in August. That is not that far off, so if you have not yet gotten tickets, get some!

If you want to help, contact Larry KD4VOM. He's usually short handed.

So, lets start the annual fun Field day issue!

73 Gary WG7X



Mix-O-Pix!



From Upper left: Larry KD4VOM and AL N7OMS @ 20 meter phone. Center Left: Worth W7WG and Steve AD7VL @ the GOTA tent. Bottom left Joe K7ZG @ 20 CW. Above antennas for 20 phone and CW.

Mo Pix!!

Upper Right, Mike W7XTZ @ 40 phone. Looks like some fun?

If you're not here... Then you missed it!
 Upper left, Strategy meeting. Middle left, Rich and Chuck try to find a wire... Lower left Yeah, we know it's a K3 Already! Some people... OH! BTW, that's Nick K7MO and some sort of radio I think...

1 June 2011

The 1 June 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President:	Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board Member	Frank Palmer AC7JY
Board Member	Alan Lentz W7AML
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 names on the attendance roster.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None reported.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reported several new and renewal memberships, phone bill, The State Corporation Renewal, the annual DNR inspection notice for the Crawford Mountain repeater, the annual Advanced Stream broadband internet access bill, and several expense vouchers.

We have also received the initial copies of the QEX and Contest Journal magazines recently subscribed to for the W7DK Library.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 4 May meeting as corrected and coordinated.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob AD7LJ

The May financial report was circulated indicating an income of \$ 779.74 and expenses of \$ 1,226.01. *A copy of the April monthly financial summary is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Karl Johnson K7KHJ, membership database manager reported the membership is estimated at around 297 with several recent additions. *A copy of Karl's membership summary report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

Frank AC7JY reports that most of this year's membership roster booklets and cards have been distributed.

Larry – KD4VOM pointed out that Karl K7KHJ has been a valuable member of the Membership database project, and now the Hamfest database group. In order to facilitate the exchange of mail and information, it would be very helpful if he had access to the club.

President Gary WG7X authorized granting security access to the Radio Club of Tacoma for Karl Johnson K7KHJ.

Property Management: - Frank AC7JY reports several new donations, most of which will likely go to this year's Hamfest Country Store operation.

Frank also announced that coming up soon will be another "Members Only" property auction. It will include equipment that have been coordinated with the club and approved by the Board.

Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reports that Hamfest planning continues on track. Karl Johnson K7JHK is now supporting us with management of the Hamfest database, including preparation of the Hamfest invitation letters and labels. There continues to be a need for someone to help with Vendor registration, preparing reception packets, Staff, Visitor and Vendor badges, etc.

Larry plans to solicit Hamfest volunteer signups at the June 8th general membership meeting.

Repeater Committee: - Alan Lentz W7AML and Nick reported that the Crawford Mountain annual inspection was successfully completed and we are good for another year.

Field Day: - Al Ferguson N7OMS Provided an update on Field Day plans. Field Day is now expecting to have 6 HF and 1 VHF/UHF station operating. The emphasis this year is on getting folks to operate. Charles KA7UAN will again field the VHF/UHF station gear. Nick K7MO will arrange the KLAY interview, and is hoping Ken Gibson will again assist in the interview.

Al N7OMS is seeking someone to write articles for the local newspapers, Tacoma Tribune, The Ranger, etc.

Al N7OMS asked about funding for Field Day Port –a–potties. The Board concurred that this request was covered by the January motion approving normal and regular RCT expenses.

Motion was made seconded and passed to authorize up to \$ 250.00 for food operations at field day.

Field day Setup will begin Friday morning moving gear to the Western State Hospital, Steila-coom site and setting up stations, antennas and the kitchen. Stations will provide their own power for this year's Field Day. The Field day new and upgraded ham Field Day invitations prepared by Bob AD7LJ have been mailed.

Library Committee: Al N7OMS; as mentioned above, the Library is now receiving monthly subscriptions to QEX and Contest Journal Magazines. Al's looking for help finding a way to display some of our magazine collection, a wooden rack type thing.

Museum: No Report

Training: The new **General Class** headed up by Joe K7ZG runs from June 2nd through July 7th once weekly on Thursday evenings from 6 pm to 9pm. Steve AD7AV is doing a **Technician Class** the weekend of June 11-12.

Jim Kirkreit Picnic Al Churchill AC7BU

Al reports this year's Kirkreit picnic is on track. Bill AC7QI will be setting up the HF 20 meter station and Rich KR7W the Bunny Hunt. Steve Blacksten AD7VL and Al AC7BU have purchased over \$ 200.00 worth food and refreshment supplies

Here's the Kirkreit Picnic K7K Special Event Info arranged by Rich KR7W:

Jun 11, 1800Z-2330Z, K7K/W7DK, Tacoma, WA. Radio Club of Tacoma. 14.265 14.055. QSL. Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Jim Kirkreit Memorial Picnic is held every summer by the Radio Club of Tacoma to honor Jim for his lifetime of promoting Amateur Radio, for being club president many years, and his liking of picnics. This year's special event hopes to honor Jim even more with this special event station set up at the annual picnic. 2011 is also

the 95th Anniversary of the Club.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bylaws Revision: Pending; Peter AD7EU asked for mailing addresses so that the proposed Bylaws changes can be sent to the membership when they are ready.

Financial Account Audit: Pending

Annual Budget Planning: Pending

Fund Raising Project/ 95th Anniversary Planning: Al Ferguson N7OMS – Al provided an update on their visit to Joesepi's restaurant. While there it became clear that silent auctioning of donated items seemed the principal money maker, although the Club would see a return on every meal sold if we decide to continue this project. In any event Al has penciled in two October dates for us. The board decided 16 October would be most fitting since it is the 95th Anniversary of the Club.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to form a committee to investigate the celebrating our 95th Anniversary at Joesepi's restaurant.

HF Radio Room Operations: Gary WG7X provided an update on the HF upgrade working group and invited anyone with ideas or inputs to contact him or Al N7OMS.

Silent Key Board: Larry KD4VOM – action pending to draft a Silent Key Board procedure.**NEW BUSINESS:**

Power Generators: Frank AC7JY introduced a proposal to dispose of the two World War II vintage club emergency generators. They are aging and also present a safety problem in the garage due to gasoline issues. Most agreed with the idea but some argued that we should maintain an emergency backup power capability. Some wondered how often we use them. Some saw no need for an emergency power backup at the clubhouse.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to dispose of existing RCT generators and replace them with a new generator.

**General Meeting
8 June 2011 MINUTES**

The 8 June 2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY
Board: Si Nelson KA7AQT
Board: Crystal Quamme K7XK

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 40 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. There were several new calls.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: KF7JEC's mother is very ill.

Treasure's Report: Was available for viewing.

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reported recent membership renewals, a phone bill and a couple of e-mails on the membership meeting schedule topic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RCT Annual Kirkreit Picnic: Gary WG7X reminded all of the up coming annual Kirkreit Picnic at Spanaway Park one June 11th.

W7DK Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reported on the planning for this year's Hamfest scheduled for 13 August at Bethel Junior High School. This is our 43rd annual Hamfest and raises cash for the club as well as provides an opportunity to promote the Club and share our hobby with others. We always need volunteers and handed out sign up sheets for this year's event. We need someone to do the Hamfest Snack Bar and we are seeking someone to handle the snack bar. If we cannot find a team to handle the snack bar we may be forced to go to a mobile

vendor and probably lose the income generated from the Snack Bar.

PROGRAM: Rich KR7W presented a slide show review of the W7DK 2008 Field Day event. Rich is going to work 40 meters phone and cw alternating using a tower made out of an extension ladder and chain link fence pipe material and Yagi made from a fiberglass fishing poles. Joe Lester K7ZG will be operating 20 meter cw.

Bruce WE7P: reports that we are currently planning to be 5A class this year as one station dropped out. There will be a GOTA station... Come operate, and more importantly come and help setup and take down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting Refreshments: Maury W7OT Need volunteers to take a month or two (August/September) of the refreshment duties. The system is well organized, and easy to do.

QSL Program: Gary WG7X asked if there was any interest in his presenting a program on QSLing and there was a very positive response

RCT 95th Anniversary: Larry KD4VOM announced that the club is looking to form a team to do the planning for this year's 95th Club anniversary. We are likely behind the power curve for this effort and can use folks willing to help us put together a program to promote the club, honor its history and celebrate its accomplishments. If interested, contact A N7OMS or Larry KD4VOM.

SHOW AND TELL:

Rich KR7W: Described an interesting RF power issue that happened in the Port of Tacoma when an oil tanker ship discovered folks were getting severely shocked from their on-board crane. Lots of experts were brought in and Rich represented the Tacoma Power folks. The ship also brought in a consulting firm to assist in the troubleshooting. They also brought in the FCC and engineers from KKOL 1330 AM on the dial running 50,000 watts. In the end it was their very directional RF signal that was the culprit.

Rich also brought in part of his radio history collection; an antique 1941 RCA Victor 45 rpm record player.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

AD7QI Bill: Reports being able to hear Europe on a dipole, if beam was aimed at him all was ok, but aiming the beam around 180 degrees he was able to hear the echo of the on the same signal around the back end.

DOOR PRIZE: Tonight's prize, a Crystal Set was won by Ollie, AD7CC

RAFFLE PRIZE: Tonight's Raffle prize, a 1933 ARRL Certificate signed by Hiram Percy Maxim was won by Mike W7XTZ, who donated it to the Club's Historical collection.

The meeting was adjourned.

**General Meeting
22 June 2011 MINUTES**

The 22 June c2011 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Secretary Larry Watson KD4VOM called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY

Board: Si Nelson --KA7AQT

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 39 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Secretary Larry KD4VOM

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. There were several new calls and a new member.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: There were no reports of illness or SK

Correspondence: Larry KD4VOM reported recent membership renewals, Hamfest registrations and many QSL cards in response to our recent Kirkreit Picnic K7K Special event station.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VE Report: John AC7WW provided the following VE activity report.

The Radio Club of Tacoma VE Team had a very busy testing session June 14, 2011 with 20 candidates present. Seven Volunteer Examiners graded 32 elements with 17 passed. Results of the session were 13 Technicians joined the ranks of the Amateur Radio Service, and four upgrades to General.

Three candidates did not earn an upgrade or an initial license at this session.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA

Leonard,

KA7NWF

Dick, W1UG

Jon, AD7AW

Joe, K7ZG

Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

RCT Annual Kirkreit Picnic: Larry KD4VOM thanked all who made this year's Kirkreit Picnic a success. There was plenty of food, socializing, and of course the bunny hunt and Special Event Station K7K. President Gary WG7X noted that we probably got close to 470 contacts over the 48 hour Special Event timeframe for the K7K operation.

W7DK Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM reported Hamfest plans are moving along well. Over 1,300 invitations were mailed on Monday. We still have no one interested in managing the snack bar operation and we expect to arrange a mobile vendor to provide this service.

PROGRAM: AI N7OMS: .with the able assistance of Jim KE6WHN presented an ARVN video "The last big Field Day" A well done video produced by ARVN of several associated clubs in the Baltimore area who (in 2004) worked together as WA3O to create a formidable field day program with multiple stations, over 12 "rocket launcher" antennas with beams and dipoles stretched between them.

FIELD DAY: AI N7OMS reviewed the Field Day schedule beginning with Friday load up at the clubhouse and set up at the Western Washington State Hospital Field Day site. We will be operating class "5 A" with 20, 40, 80 and 15 meter stations as well as Charles K7UAN's self contained UHF/VHF 6 meter station and the Get On The Air Station. John AC7WW and XYL Connie will be doing the reception honors again this

year. Operations begin on Saturday at 11:00 local and end 24 hours later at 11:00 Sunday. We always need folks to load, setup, operate, tear down load up and return our gear to storage, but most of all come operate, and/or learn to operate and enjoy the fun we always have at Field Day...

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**Meeting Refreshments: Larry**

KD4VOM thanked Maury W7OT for his work setting up and supporting the general membership refreshments. Jan Gilbertson K7HTU has stepped up to cover our next few meetings.

RCT 95th Anniversary: Larry

KD4VOM noted that the club is looking to form a team to do the planning for this year's 95th Club anniversary. This is a great opportunity for folks to help us put together a program to promote the club, honor its history and celebrate its accomplishments. If interested, contact Al N7OMS or Larry KD4VOM.

International Typewriter Day: Peter

AD7EU notes that tomorrow is the 143rd International Typewriter day for those of you who have mills at home.

No Open House Saturday: Frank

AC7JY notes that due to Field Day there will be no open house this weekend.

SHOW AND TELL:

Rich KR7W: Brought a strange wooden home brew contraption he claims to be a speaker in a box device tuned to 700 Hz to enhance his ability to hear cw... It's even calibrated...

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Jim KE6WHN: Reported a special event station contact with a group in Green Valley Arizona.

DOOR PRIZE: Tonight's prize, PLU 259 connector with a threaded stub.

RAFFLE PRIZE: Tonight's Raffle prize, a 2 meter Tempo mobile rig was won by Dick W1UG. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

This column intentionally left blank!

(Had to make room for FD pictures!)

Dateline: July 2011

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more.

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Legacy photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Attaboys
- View from the Shack

Legacy Photo

Here's one we all should know. Original recipient of the Doc Spike Inspirational Award, the Doc himself...



Around the Club...

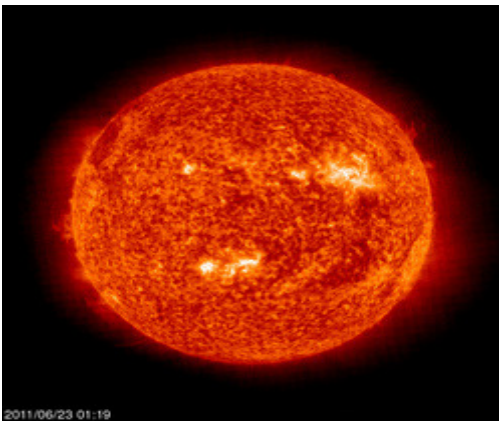
Field Day 2011 is in the history books. Al N7OMS, Bruce WE7P and Jay KD7DKY and a sizeable team of volunteers put together a field day to remember. Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat ain't easy but they, with lots of help pulled it off. Chief cat-herder Al cajoled, threatened, encouraged and overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to make this year's class 5A event a success. Thanks also to AC7LJ for reserving the site and preparing the 200 plus letters sent out to new and recently upgraded hams inviting them to come explore their new privileges. Jan K7HTU with help from Paul KE7WTK handled the Field Day kitchen with care and quality. The sirloin burgers and fixin's were great, but likely took second place to pancakes, sausage, bacon and omelets to order for the "Logger's Breakfast". Running the UHF/VHF and 6 meter station Charles, KD7UAN worked his first 6 meter pileup with skill and cunning, while others continue to marvel at his self engineered self contained station. While in route, Charles heard Bill AC7QI comment that the field had not been recently plowed, and turned his rig around to pick up his large mower – then mowed the field where needed. Al N7OMS picked up Public Information Officer duties, writing press releases which were sent to local papers. The Club fielded 15, 20, 40 and 75 meter stations with mixes of phone and CW. Rocket launchers and beams were used on 15 and 20 while a magic homebrew using an extension ladder mast holding up a wire beam held by four fiberglass flagpoles and a wire dipole supported 40 meter CW and phone. Bill hung an inverted V on 75 meters and ????

The Kirkreit Picnic was held again this year at Spanaway Park. Put together by Al Churchill, AC7BU, Bill Wright AC7QI, Steve Blacksten AD7VL and Rich Patrick KR7W the picnic sported great pot luck food, along with the traditional great hamburgers and dogs. Al and Bill setup the 20 Meter HF station to handle the Special Event Station K7K that Rich Patrick arranged for. Rich KR7W set out the hidden transmitters and provided loaner antennas and attenuators for the Bunny Hunters.

ARRL...and such...

SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "You make the Sun shine brighter than Doris Day" Cook, K7RA, reports: Over the past week -- June 16-22 -- the average daily sunspot number rose nearly 20



points to 55, while the average daily solar flux readings increased by nearly 9 points to 98.6. All geomagnetic indices declined slightly. For the past month, we've been looking nervously toward ARRL Field Day because a forecast from NOAA and USAF showed possibly unsettled geomagnetic conditions on Friday, June 24, and continuing through Field Day weekend. The forecast has evolved from troubling to frightening and back again. Early in June, the predicted planetary A index for June 24-26 was 18, 18 and 15. Then on June 7, it changed to 15, 15 and 10 -- a little better.

Then a week later, things looked even more promising on June 14 at 15, 10 and 5. But on June 17, it was revised upward to 30, 15 and 5; a planetary A index of 30 indicates a geomagnetic storm. The next day on June 18, the forecast shifted to 25, 18 and 8, and on June 19 it changed again to 25, 18 and 10. June 20 saw a slight change to 25, 18 and 8 again, then on June 21, it shifted to 15, 40 and 25. An A index of 40 on the first day of Field Day sounds ominous. Then June 22 it changed again to 30, 10 and 10. Basically we would love to see the A index as low as possible, 5 or less would be wonderful. The latest news is that the solar wind from a coronal mass ejection (CME) occurring on the solstice is moving slower than originally thought, which means a weaker effect here on Earth. A planetary K index of 5 is expected when the storm arrives, now predicted at 0700 UTC on June 24, which is 35 hours before the start of Field Day, 1800 UTC on June 25. At 0640 UTC on June 23, the Australian IPS Radio and Space Services released a bulletin stating that increased geomagnetic activity is expected on Jun4 23-24, due to the CME, but that the effect on June 23 is expected to be mild, with a small chance of isolated storm periods. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts active conditions

June 24, unsettled to active on June 25, quiet to unsettled June 26-27 and quiet on June 28-30. The last forecast before Field Day should be on Friday, June 24, released after 2100 UTC. The most recent forecast from USAF and NOAA has solar flux at 95 on June 23-25, 90 on June 26-30, 95 on July 1-2 and 93 on July 3. The predicted planetary A index for June 23-26 is 18, 30, 20, and 10, on June 27-28 is 8 and 5 on Jun 29 through July 1. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, June 24. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Wham!'s *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*.

TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

From Ward Silver's Contest Journal...

Trying to keep a straight path when deploying a Beverage antenna in heavy brush or undergrowth (see this blog by N2NL/KH2 for an idea of the problem) is a lot easier with My Tracks, a free Android phone GPS app. (Thanks, José CT1BOH)

Recent solar activity predictions have been dismaying to fans of 15 meters and up (while the low-band ops have been secretly cackling with glee). The most recent ARRL Propagation Bulletin ARLP024 contains a host of links about the reports and dissenting opinions. In the meantime, just get on the air and make contacts anyway!

Dave N3XUD enthusiastically endorses WinGrid by W4SM as a great grid square tool. The free program calculates grid squares from latitudes and longitudes, the reverse, and calculates distances and headings from two sets of lat/long or grid squares. There are a number of other useful programs there, as well.

Knot-knot! Who's there? Alan K2ACK and his collection of Wikipedia links for useful rope tricks; the Figure Eight Loop and the Figure Eight knot, the Double Bowline (that poor rabbit must be going nuts), and the Butterfly.

So you finally bought that neat coax connector crimping tool and die set. But which to use for which connector? Here is a size chart that might be of help in selecting the right crimper die for the right RF connector. There are also standard die sets on the RF Parts and Tescos websites. (Thanks, Bert VE3NR and Les W2LK)

Bill N5AB reports success in using an old-fashioned screen door spring at one



Come in she said, I'll give ya shelter from the storm...but leave the antennas outside, would ya? Here's the boneyard at W5ZN - ouch! (Photo by NØAX)

end of an antenna wire, where the support rope meets the tree, to provide some flex for a wire antenna. He uses a length of rope between the antenna and the metal spring to prevent any undesired coupling between the two.

If you are designing an amplifier power supply, you might want to check out the PSU Designer Software from Duncan Amplifiers. This will help insure that you've included all of the important factors that affect supply performance. There are some high voltage supply design examples from G3SEK available, too!

Paul NA5N has a lot of excellent parts and building information on his website. When he's not hamming, he works at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory doing some REAL DXing!

Roger K8RI is building some adapter plates to mount Yaesu thrust bearings, which are metric, to Rohn 25 accessory shelves, which are not metric. This process is fairly easy to adapt to other similar needs.

Technical Web Site of the Week - From time to time someone poses the question as to why coax cables are mostly manufactured in either 75 or 50 ohm characteristic impedances. This article from Microwaves 101 nicely explains why, with both math and graphs. (Thanks, Fred WA7TZY)

TECHNOLOGY

Ham Radio Growing In The Age Of Twitter

"They set up communications for the agencies, both governmental and relief agencies that were trying to help people there," says Kay Craigie is the president of the American Radio Relay League, an advocacy group that represents hams. "And they stayed there for weeks under very, very difficult conditions."

Craigie says Hurricane Katrina is just one example of how volunteer ham operators have responded to emergencies all over the country. But she says their ability to provide that help is being inadvertently threatened – in the name of improved emergency communication.

Peter King is a Republican congressman from New York, and the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. At a hearing in March, King lamented that police, firefighters and other first responders have trouble talking "As we approach the 10th anniversary of September 11th, public safety must be allocated sufficient spectrum so that a national, interoperable public safety wireless broadband network can finally be built," he said.

King is sponsoring a bill called the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011. The measure would take some of the broadcast spectrum that was freed up by the transition to digital television and set it aside to build a new emergency communications system. That idea has wide support in both parties, and both houses of Congress. To pay for it, King's bill proposes auctioning off another band of broadcast frequencies that are sometimes used by first responders. The problem is, those same frequencies are used by ham radio operators, too.

Joseph Taylor lives in Princeton, N.J. His house isn't hard to find: It's the only one on the block with a giant radio tower in the backyard.

"Ham radio operators have a long history of being very useful in emergency situations," Taylor says. "The training of amateurs has been a national resource for many decades now."

Taylor says his early radio training led him to a career in physics, and eventually, a Nobel Prize. There are other frequencies besides those targeted by the House bill that hams can use. But amateur radio advocates worry that this bill could be just the first step.

"They start taking these frequencies away now, and then down they take a few more. And pretty quick, it becomes a major problem instead of just a minor issue," says Vince Kolar, the emergency manager for Cascade County, Montana. He says hams routinely help the county with traffic control, and with its emergency response in case of wildfires and severe weather.

"Those people are all volunteers," he says. "They all volunteer their time and their equipment, mostly. If it makes it harder for them to do what they need to do, then I'm certainly opposed to it."

Across the country in Virginia, state emergency coordinator Michael Cline doesn't dispute the importance of hams. But he thinks the House bill can be changed. "They really are an integral part of emergency management and public safety," Cline says. "But I think now that a lot of folks are realizing that there is a potential harm to the amateurs that we'll be able to make accommodations for them."

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"WHAT AN UNBELIEVABLE RESPONSE"

From Rick Palm K1CE's ARES Newsletter:

Missouri SEC Ken Baremore, W0KRB, sent the following open letter to volunteers involved in the Joplin, Missouri tornado disaster:

"I want to thank all who volunteered and came to Joplin to help with communications as well as those who are still contacting me to see if additional help is needed. Due to the ending of the search and recovery mode and going to the debris and potential body part removal functions, the decision was made that effective at the end of shift today (Monday, May 30, 2011) all ham communications from the EOCs to the field operations are being stood down. We do have some ARES® operators that are scheduled and will continue to work with SATERN through the rest of this week.

"Ham communications between Springfield and Joplin started Sunday night between Freeman Hospital in Joplin and some of the hospitals in Springfield as that was the only means of communication. The links were shut down Monday morning when their needs were met. Likewise, the radio station at the Springfield Red Cross was started Sunday evening to allow communications between the Springfield and Joplin offices and to the shelter that was set up in Joplin. That communication link stayed open until Tuesday as it was the only reliable method of communications.

"I asked Cecil Higgins, AC0HA, Assistant DEC for District D, to respond to Joplin on Tuesday morning and act as "Ham in Charge" during the disaster and help to set up additional communication links as required. Thomas Zeller, KB0ORZ, EC for Jasper County, and LaVerne Wilson, NQ0B, EC for Newton County, were already in place, with members of their respective ARES® groups trying to support the EOCs and Red Cross, but relief was needed.

"Our ham operators expended almost 2000 hours during this week. What an unbelievable response. I know that many of you were scrambling to find the necessary equipment to allow you to come help this week. It is a great feeling for me to know that I am part of an organization with people willing to give up vacation or personal time to help out in a time of need. I hope we don't have another need anytime soon but it is nice to know that we have hams and ARES® members ready to serve. Again, I can't thank you all enough." -- 73, Kenneth Baremore, WØKRB, Missouri Section Emergency Coordinator [See also Missouri ARES®.]

Attaboys:

This month, in addition to all those that make our Field Day a great success, Sparky tips his hat to Karl Johnson K7HKJ who has picked up both the membership and Hamfest databases as well as his invaluable help preparing Hamfest invitation letters and labels for the over thirteen thousand invitations we sent out.

View from the Shack.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those talented and industrious souls who have steered and navigated the Radio Club of Tacoma over the past 95 years. Its time again to celebrate our hobby and heritage. Come join the planning team putting together our 95th anniversary celebration. Contact Al N7OMS or Larry KD4VOM.

Sparky

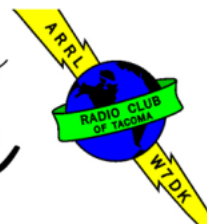
"I used to have a handle on life, ... but it broke"

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 **Central Tacoma Packet:** 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



JULY 2011 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays July 13th and 27th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday June 2nd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .